



The Drink Tank

Issue 195

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This is the year 2008 in review issue of The Drink Tank. If you're hoping that this issue will be useful as a guide to finding what you're looking for in a particular issue, I'm afraid you'll be very disappointed. On the other hand, if you wanna look at the year as it evolved and how it came to be the way it is, you might find this interesting. At least a little.

2008 was a big year for Christopher J. Garcia. I was nominated for the Hugo, as was The Drink Tank. I took my TAFF trip, which'll always stay a major piece of my memory as there was so much wonderful stuff going on and that it was a lot of fun and there was WorldCon and the SteamPunk con and so much more. It was a really good year.

The issues of 2008 were different, fully running everything from silly, short issues to longer and more detailed. I thought 2007 was a far better year overall, but 2008 was really fun and I think some of the best issues of the run.

It also featured a few debuts in the pages, like Genevieve, Brianna Spacekat Wu

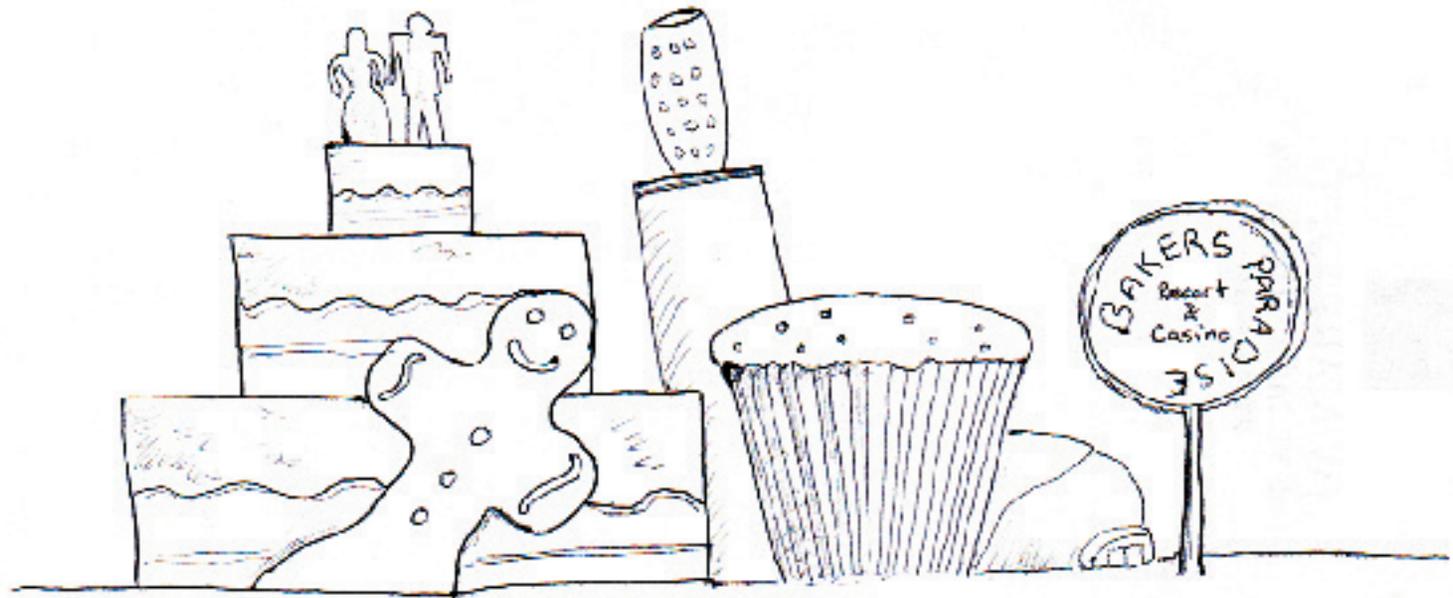
and Steve Stiles. I have to say that it was great to have stuff from all the great folks who sent me wonderful stuff.

I'd also say that there some great articles, photos and art from the likes of Frank Wu, Taral Wayne, James Bacon, Brianna, Steve Green, Brad Foster, Lloyd Penney, John Purcell, Claire Brialey, Mark Plummer, Mo Starkey, Dann Lopez, Ken Patterson, Leigh Ann Hildebrand, Espana Sheriff, Jean Martin, Christian McGuire, Warren Buff, Cheryl Morgan, Kevin Roche, Eric Mayer, Arnie Katz, Bob Hole, Miko, Kevin Standlee, Andy Trembley, Steven Silver, and so many many more. It's impossible to be complete in the naming of all the great people who sent stuff my way, but let it

be known that I love you all and I thank you all deeply.

The Drink Tank will be doing the fourth annual Giant Sized Annual, hitting the stands on January 31st, just like the first issue did back in 2005. I invite everyone (maybe invite is the wrong word...beg?) to send something in for me to work with. I'll send more begging in the coming days.

And so now, let's look at all these issues and answer the question as to what I was thinking. Most of the time, I wasn't thinking, I was just doing. That's my traditional method of working. Do first, think about it once a year when you're trying to avoid interacting with your family over the holidays.



Issue 157- 12 Pages

This issue featured Mr. Frank Wu writing about China, Cheryl Morgan with the second issue in the Barmy Cats cycle and then I totalled the new things that ended up on the National Film Registry. The Alexiad has it's counting of the surviving World War I soldiers and The Drink Tank goes on and on about The National Film Registry. There were fine LoCs from John Purcell, Lloyd Penney, Eric Mayer and the debut of Peter Wright. Decent issue. It might be the first cover that was a photo I took. It had the design concepts for various SmartCars.

Issue 158- 8 Pages

This was an interesting issue. It had the CorFlu Carol piece from C*****s D*****s that was fun, and it also had a good article from Frank talking about Hilary Clinton. There was a lot of politics throughout this entire year and this was the start. I also had a wonderful Fannish Memory Syndrome from Mr. Steve Green. It was a fun one that ended with the fine line :I blame it all on fnadom..." I know the cover was from Frank and Brianna and it had dragons and a flying chick!

Issue 160- 21 Pages

The Third Annual Giant Sized Annual with a fine cover from Brad W. Foster., He's my hero these days. I really wish I could have handed the Hugo for Best Fan Artist I presented at WorldCon directly

to Brad, but alas, he wasn't there. This issue was co-edited by Derek McCaw, though he didn't bring in as much stuff as I thought he might, but he did send in a fine article to lead off the issue. There was some good stuff from James Bacon, Eric Mayer and John Purcell. There was Mark Plummer, Frank Wu with two pieces, including one that I responded to with my own list that dealt with old movies. There was a Five Things from Miss Leigh Ann Hildebrand and a Fannish Memory Syndrome. There were some great LoCs from Eric Mayer and John Purcell. I really like that issue. One of the three or four best of the year.

A Haiku for the first
issues of the year-
Pre-TAFF Trip jitters
Working on Drink Tanks
at home
The rains held over

Issue 161- 6 Pages

Another Frank and Briana cover and I really like it. It's a piece that reminds me of James Bond, Charlie's Angels and Beach Party films of the 1960s. There was the first political article of the year from Taral, I wrote a bit about my TAFF trip plans and there were LoCs from Eric Mayer

and Taral. Art from The Poopsmith, Gore Mantra and Steve Green. A simple but decent issue.

Issue 162- 12 Pages

This one is a good issue, but it's not in that class where you go "My Ghod, how did I manage this!". This is one of my personal faves because it features the debut of R. Twidner, that master and one of the Five Old Men that I hold up as my heroes. Taral Wayne does a nice article and Frank and Brianna do a lovely article about the 10 Ways in Which Computers Have Failed Us, whcih allowed



me to use a ton of photos of the museum's collection. Jay Lake gave a nice little fiction piece called The Repair Man, which I really enjoyed. Lloyd Penney dropped us a fine LoC and Steve Green sent a fine Fannish Memory Syndrome. Good stuff.

Issue 163- 4 Pages

A very small issue and one that I actually kinda liked. There's an article from Taral Wayne called A Blank Page By Any Other Name and I have an article about getting ready to go on my TAFF Trip. The issue ended with a fine Steve Green Fannish Memory Syndrome about Star Trek and 'video nasties'. The cover was a photo of Lick Observatory from 1900 or so. I thought it was a good issue because it did what it needed to very quickly and Steve and Taral had nice pieces.

Issue 164- 9 Pages

Hey, it's a Sumo cover! I love Sumo! James Bacon opens the issue that made me a liar in the last issue because I managed to get it out before I went to England. The James article was one of his best of the year, as I see it. LoCs from John Purcell and Lloyd Penney. An average issue with a fine article from James.

Issue 165- 8 Pages

The cover is the best photo I took on all of my TAFF trip. It's of

a fine piece of Mayan (or maybe Aztec or Olmec) art of a two-headed snake-dragon. It's gorgeous and I managed to get a good photo of it in the gallery at the British Museum. The issue featured one of the chapters of my TAFF trip, which featured a lot of photos I took at the British Museum (since most of the other photos I took I somehow lost) and it was a fun segment. It talked about my sad failure to get to see the London Roller Girls in action! I also announced that I'd gotten the nom for the Hugo in the issue next to an awesome photo of a bunch of old statues. Then Peter Sullivan did a great article about his time at Eastercon. It's a decent issue. I think there's a great photo from Linda that has Me, Flick (partly), Abi Brown, Peter Sullivan and John The Rock Coxon.

Issue 166- 9 Pages

Here's an issue with an Alan White



Cover. I love it when I get to run Alan's stuff. The first article is a long, rambling, pointless article that is probably one of the lamest things I've ever written. And that comes from a guy who has written really bad erotica! Then I describe an idea that gelled in my head while I was traveling. There was a wonderful Eastercon report from the Legendary Liz Batty. I even got to run my favourite group photo from Eastercon. We also had a fine Fannish Memory Syndrome from Steve Green. I'd say this one was a weak opener that was followed by good stuff. I really wasn't back in the swing yet.

Issue 167- 6 Pages

I did a bit of intro, but mostly it was other folks writing. There was Mr. Martin Young making his Drink Tank debut, there were a pair of lightbulb jokes and a fine Fannish Memory Syndrome followed by a LoC from Mr. Christian McGuire. It's a short issue, kinda weak, but it's obvious that I wasn't fully back yet.

Issue 168- 23 pages

Handicapping The Hugos. Without question my best issue of the Year. OK, that might be a stretch, but it was a lot of fun to put together and I did OK. A lot of photos from Hugos and A lot of talk from me and Niall Harrison and Cheryl Morgan. Steve Green has a Fannish Memory Syndrome talking about the Hugos and how

the other awards are more to his liking. Leigh Ann Hildebrand then comes up with a Five Things about Why She Seldom Votes for the Hugos.

Issue 169- 12 Pages

The CostumeCon issue. There's a lot of great photos in there, including some from Kevin Standlee, an entire photo essay from Howeird, Kristina Kopnisky and others. There's a great photo of Mrs. Lovette and Sweeny Todd on the cover. There's also a great photo of Jean Martin in a flapper-esque outfit posing for photos. There's an article from Kristina of Consonant Enigma. You know, I love that zine. I think she really does great stuff. I'd love to see her do 3 or 4 issues next year. I need to send her more articles. This is probably my personal favourite for the year. Costume-Con was also the peak of this phase of BArea fandom and an important piece of the puzzle in figuring out who we are and what we do. The more I think about it, the more I realise that CC26 defined BArea fandom better than any other single event since the 1964 WorldCon.

Issue 170- 12 Pages

The cover is James Cagney wrestling, I think with Ray Steele. I'm not 100% for sure on that (there are a lot of old timers I think look alike). The issue features the debut of Shaz Nolan, who hasn't written anything for me since, sadly, on the subject of Costume-Con.

There's the first article from Johanna Mead about Absinthe. I found some great art to use with the article. Overall, it's a pair of great debuts. There's a fun article from Frank and Brianna about Six Alternative Endings to the 2008 Presidential Campaign which was really funny. There was also a great piece of art of Gonzo Obama. That made me smile. There's another fine Fannish Memory Syndrome from Steve Green. Lloyd Penney is the only LoC, but there are lots of good photos, mostly from Kristina and Jean and I had a couple. Decent issue.

Issue 171- 20 Pages

The Post-BayCon issue. The cover is the brilliant photo of Mette, Bryan, Schachat, Karisusama, Kevin Roche, Karen Tully and various others. It's the most fun cover I've ever run, I think. I wrote a lot about BayCon and then there was a fine LoC from Steve Stiles with a great illustration and then there's the legendary piece 12 Slices of Bacon and a Little Thing by Christian McGuire. I would be lying if I said this was anything but brilliant. I really think it's one of those



stream of consciousness pieces that you rarely read anymore. There are great photos from Jean Martin and RJ Johnson (including the lovely piece of the Admiral and her seven ships), and there's a great article from James Bacon about the Bristol Comic Expo. Dwain Kaiser also had a short piece about ATom's TAFF trip. Steve did a more or less Surrealist

piece from Steve Green before he took a bit of a break from the Drink Tank. Leigh Ann had a lovely 5 Things about BayCon that had a lovely piece of art from Greg Vineland. Curt Phillips wrote a bit about the passing of Robert Asprin, which also brought about a short piece from Jay Crasdan. This was a good issue. I think it was the best BayCon review you could ever find from me. I liked the way everything sorta merged here.

Issue 172- 6 Pages

There's the great Mike Smithwick debut of me holding the Apollo Guidance Computer in front of the Babbage Engine. It's a good one. The issue is all about the Wild Parrots of Sunnyvale and a bit about Jackson Pollack and a painting that may or may not be one of his. There are a ton of photos of the parrots that are awesome! I love parrots!

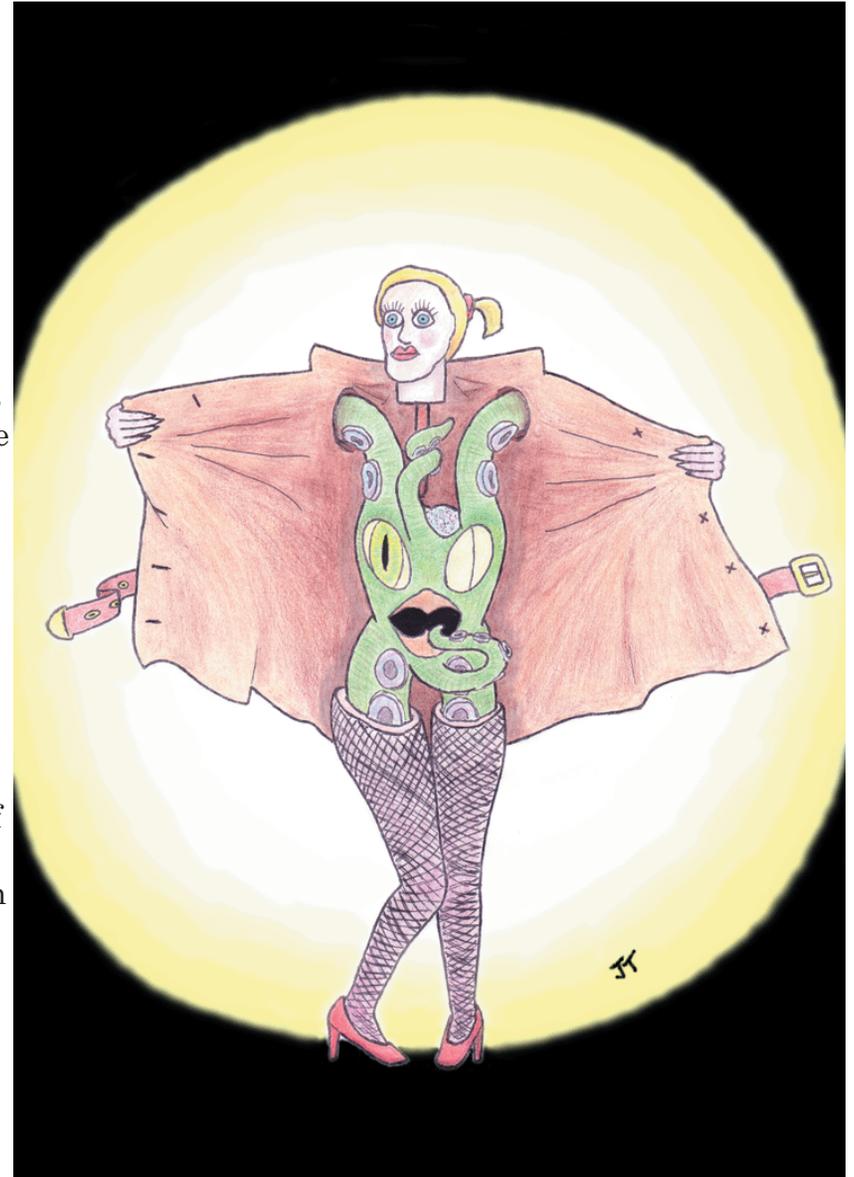
Issue 173- 15 Pages

This one has my favourite single piece of Fan Art that I ran all year: Miko's version of me all Chibi-fied that she did at BASFA. It's me, only adorable! It also featured the story of how Evelyn ended up buying the Unicorn/Pegasus painting that hangs over my bed to this day. There's a dark piece from Taral called a Parable of Faith, which is a good piece with some great art. Frank did a fine article called Pushing Buttons in the long line of political pieces about Obama's race for the White House.

There was one of my favourite Bob Hole pieces with the LoCs from Eric Mayer, Lloyd Penney and Christian McGuire. James Bacon had another fine piece and there was a fine photo from the Pyschotronic Film Festival that featured me, Jo Rhett, Espana, Jerry and Ken, The Queen of Trash and all sorts of other fun folks that we see every few months. A nice issue.

Issue 174- 10 Pages

A great cover from Brianna that was just fantastic. Her name will truly be made among many for the File 770 cover, but this one is the one that I think of a lot. LoCs open from John Purcell, and there's one from Eric Mayer, and another from Lloyd. A wonderful art piece from Steve Stiles is also included. There are some of the most fun things that I did, interlinos which let folks know some of the lesser-known quotes from famous people like P.D. Wodehouse, Mother Theresa and Ghandi. There's also a fine article about John Purcell's daughter catching a snake. I did a sort of review of Westercon with Art from Jason Schachat. This was



a very diverse issue. I'm a big fan of it partly because it's not easily definable. I also wanna point out that piece from John Toon above this. It's good stuff. He's making his debut in a year in review zine. That's wild.

Issue 175- 8 Pages

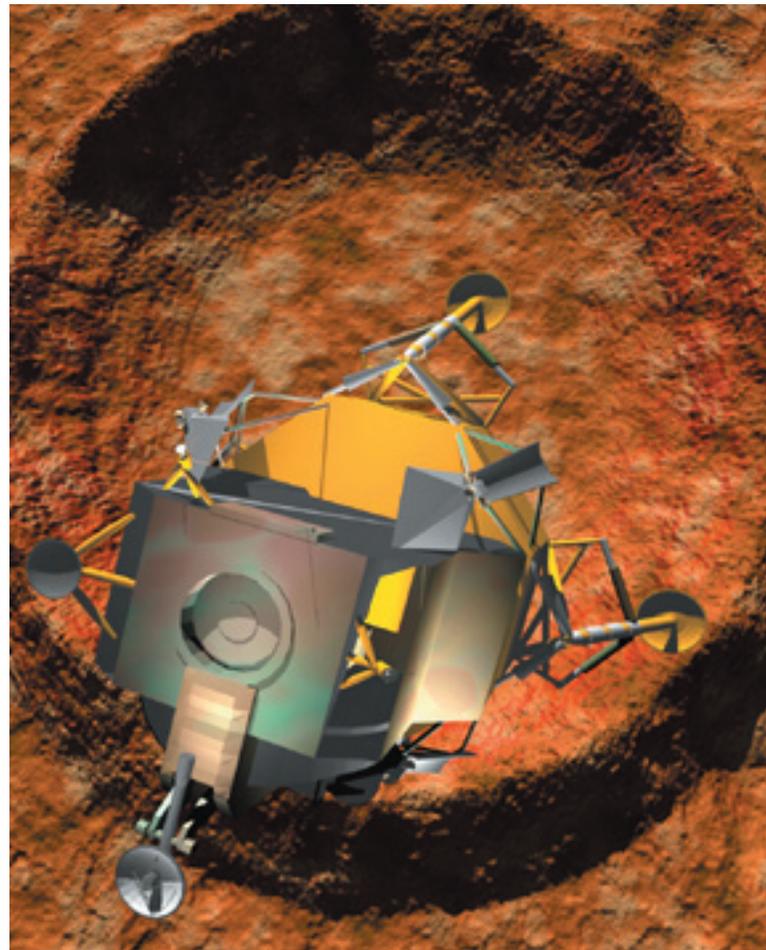
This is the Frank Wu cover of the year. It's the unofficial Panda issue and I was so happy to get to use a bunch of Lol-Pandas in it. It's mostly LoCs with Lee Lavell, Eric Mayer, and I ramble a little, talking about wrestling and working on articles. It's the art of the Pandas that really fluff this issue up all the way! This was also the start of the Dork Knight from Dann Lopez.

Issue 176- 6 Pages

A great, pron-y The opening article is me talking about my panels for World-Con and then there's the sad news of Ann Green's passing. I ran a piece of my TAFF report about one of the truly great meals I ever had that Ann Had made for me. It was amazing. Lloyd Penney and Eric Mayer had LoCs in the issue, and another Dork Knight. A short and sweet issue.

Issue 178- 14 Pages

There was a nice run of issues that included this one that was pretty good. The Cover was a wonderful black and white piece from Selina Phanara. I love her work so very much. This was the issue post-WorldCon and it was very solid. There was a lovely article from Warren Buff about Technicolor Fandom and a great article that should have been in the Games issue from James Bacon. Then there's a piece from me about the various panels I was on at WorldCon illustrated with the photos of people wearing the Dr. Who Scarf that Leigh Ann made. This was a pretty decent issue, and while I miss doing This Were WorldCon issues, I'm thinking that this issue was better than 80% of the ones I've ever done.



Issue 177- 21 Pages

This is the Games issue and Mo Starkey's cover is creepy and dark. She's so great. This is my favourite of her pieces this year. The opener is a piece about computer chess and then Daniel Spector kicked in his first article of the year about FLuxx, while Barbara Johnson-Haddad gives us a fine piece about the election and how it relates to gaming, and then there's a fine thing from M Lloyd and Eric Mayer follows that. I've got a couple of pieces about playing cards and Matt Appletom has an article, Leigh Ann LoCs and there's a Dork Knight. Probably the best put-together issue of the year, and it's the most like the best issues of The Drink Tank (Cocktail and Corset) that I've managed since then. The art from everyone was wonderful. I should do more like that one.

Issue 179- 14 Pages

The cover is from Ditmar. I love his stuff! I really think he's something special. I talk about writing for Yelp and the use of ChaCha. James comes through with another great article about Expo with some fine photos. I think I did a pretty good job of laying that stuff out. Taral Wayne's fine article is Plastic & Paper, a sorta response to James' article the previous issue. There was a fine piece of Fan Art from Taral too. An Eric Mayer LoC, photos from WorldCon and Dork Knight ends a good, solid issue. This one was another one that I think really went a long way. This was a period where it just seemed like I had material coming in

at a ridiculous rate and then I was getting through them really fast and had some luck with layout too.

Issue 180- 7 Pages

A nice Mo Starkey Future City cover and then there was a fine Site Selection Lament from Barbara Haddad-Johnson and then an art piece that Steve Green sent to me that had been done by Ann. I am so happy that I got to run a piece from her. I really wish I had got to know her better. There's a Lloyd Penney and a John Coxon LoC in it. I'm not overly thrilled with it, but it was coming from a good period.

Issue 181- 9 Pages

Another sexy/lovely Brianna cover. She's good stuff and getting better. We open with a fine set of LoCs from Eric Mayer and Lloyd Penney. Then is the long, rambling sort-of review of Howard Smith's *I, robot*, easily the worst book I read all year. True, I did not read all that many books in 2008, but this was the worst of them. It was also the worst written article of the year from yours truly, which is saying something. Then there was the talk about the Large Hadron Collider and a look at a couple of other folks' zines. There's art from Genevieve (her debut in *The Drink Tank*) and Dann Lopez's *Dork Knight*. I thought this one was a poor issue, largely because of the amount of stuff that I provided. Still, had I been a better editor, it would have been



really good stuff because I think it looks great and the topics are strong and fun.

Issue 182- 10 Pages

The cover is from Espana. I saw it on her Website and I asked to run it and there it is. It really is a striking cover and the piece I've seen in print from Espana. There's a good little article from me about Computer Gaming and there's art from Mo Starkey and Bill Rotsler. There are tons of LoCs, well, three actually, but they were meaty ones from Lloyd Penney, John Purcell and Eric Mayer. I love those guys! The best of the *Dork Knights* was the one in this issue. I rather liked

it. I thought it was fun.

Issue 183- 13 Pages

The beginning of the Fandom on Infinite Earths cross-over. It started with the announcement of Steve Green and Martin Tudor restarting *Critical Wave*. It was good stuff, which oddly trumped both *File 770* (and *File770.com*) as well as *Ansible*. Then it's the start of my epic *Faan Fiction* piece. It's weird and it's funny and it's not that good, but I enjoyed writing it, which is the reason the *Drink Tank* exists at all. After that, there's a fine *Dork Knight*. I photoshopped the cover starting with a George Lopez cover and then used a Miko art piece and a single word balloon. I liked that one.

Issue 184- 16 Pages

A Jason Schachat cover of a fine type. That guy's good and funny. The piece of my weird *CorFlu* continued with art from Bill Rotsler, a Bryan Little piece, something from BASFA that Mo Starkey drew, and an Espana Sheriff piece. It was a lot of fun to write that section. I did get some LoCs from Eric Mayer, two of them, in fact, and two from Lloyd and one from John Purcell. It was a good time and ended with a Dann Lopez piece.

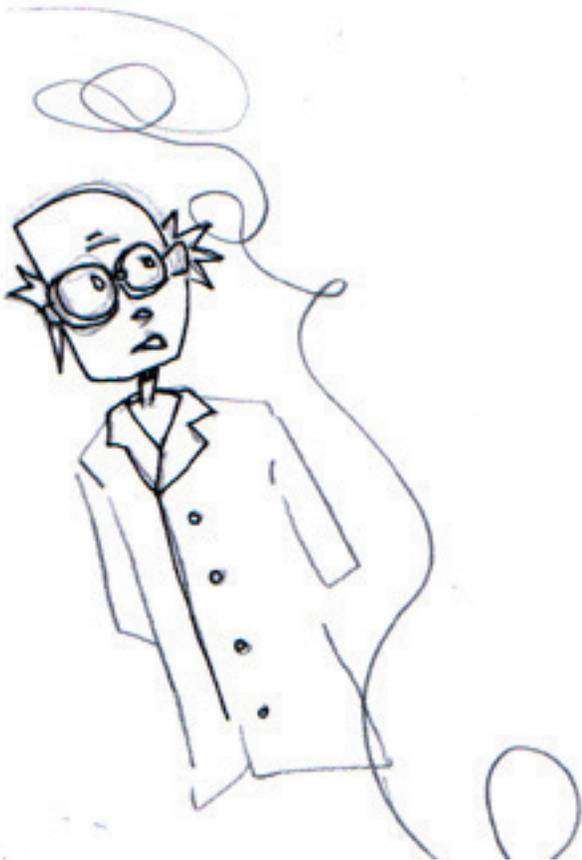
Issue 185- 23 Pages

It started with a fine Espana Cover, she's so good at this thing called art. John Purcell started the issue's articles

with a fine piece of Faan fiction. There was some good Genevieve art. Mr. Norton gave a piece of art to go along with Milestones article from Taral Wayne. He's so damn good. Then there's the cross-over CorFlu piece. The photos were of the Scarf from WorldCon. I need more Fan Artists! Mo Starkey took a bit of time to give me a piece.

Issue 186- 22 Pages

I did a cover! It was a simple piece that I did on my Mac, but it was a cover! You may nominate me for Best Fan Art-



ist! Then it's The Dork Knight since I'd forgotten to run one in the prior issue. There was some more Warren Buff writing about the Raleigh NASFiC bid, Some Mo Fan artist, Espana again, and another Norton piece and Taral Wayne writes a saucy piece about the FurryMUCK. Randy Byers and Eric Mayer wrote LoCs. The best part of the issue was the review of my Top Ten Albums. I really do review it every 4 years. I then finished off the CorFlu thingee where I kinda ran out of steam. There was some fun stuff there ("You need to get down here! Ted White, Earl Kemp and John Hertz are playing Magic: The Gathering!") but really, it just ended. All the art for the last part was from Bill Rotsler.

Issue 187- 20 pages

It's got a Miko photo of me as the cover. I like it! The opening article is me writing a fiction/review of the Steam-Punk Convention with photos from Kevin Standlee. There's a great piece from Mo Starkey. Warren Buff sent a LoC, as did Lloyd Penney. John Hertz sent a fine acrostic about Obama's win, Taral had a fine piece about Obama's win. John Purcell sent in a LoC and there was another Dork Knight.

Issue 188- 16 Pages

This is the Taral Wayne Rotsler Award Tribute Issue. The cover was from Brianna and I liked it, and all the art inside was from Taral. It also featured

the words of Mr. Taral Wayne. I liked the issue, though I know some folks weren't happy with the way that Taral presented his views on Rotsler. It happens. One of the better issues of the year.

Issue 189- 11 pages

A great Mo Starkey cover. I like her style so much. You can find her work in Baen's Universe, too! Brianna sends in a fine review of Dead Space, a hip video game, A Dialog with Faith from Taral continued his blitz across all fanzines! I published part of my Nanowrimo piece about the Ancient Nazi Kings of San Francisco. There was a fine set of LoCs illustrated by Steve Stiles, including one of the rare pieces of LoCing from Earl Kemp and another one from Eric Mayer. There was also a Dork Knight and the return of Steve Green and the Fannish Memory Syndrome. There was a closing piece from Mo Starkey. Really good stuff.

Issue 190- 15 Pages

Mo Starkey cover of the Chupacabra. Then there was a long piece about the St. George's Spirits Open House. It was a weird piece, but I loved it. Eric Mayer, R. Graeme Cameron give LoCs, Taral sends us a fine piece on Canadian politics and there's more art from Alisa Longletter that's strong. There's another funny Dork Knight from Dann too!

Issue 191- 8 Pages.

OK, I dropped the ball on this one.

I wanted to do a great tribute to Forry, and while the Steven Silver, David Theil, Warren Buff and Jay Crasdan pieces were really good, I wish I could have done more. Steve Green sent in a Fan-ish Memory Syndrome too that was very touching. I really thinkg FMS is one of the best things that the Drink Tank has going for it.

Issue 192- 14 Pages

Another Brianna cover and a good one themed around 24, I think. The issue had a long piece from James Bacon, who

you should remember on your FAAn, Nova and Hugo ballots, and there's another guy who you should think of at those times, Taral Wayne with a slightly controversial, though good, piece. There's a photo from Frank, a Dork Knight and a Crossword. Decent.

Issue 193- 8 Pages

Brianna gives us The Lesbian Clones! A great cover. There's art from Genevieve, and there's a nice review from Briana about Far Cry II. Lloyd Penney LoC and my Oscar and Hugo Picks.

Issue 194- John Hertz eMailed me an article about Algis Budrys and then there's the annual look at the National Film Registry. There's a great Kate Kelton cover and art from Kate and Genevieve.

Issue 195- 10 Pages

You're reading it, chump! It's all me with art from a bunch of folks, including Kate, Genevieve who did the cover and the piece on page 9, and a Dork Knight.

And that was the year that was.

Tales of the DORK KNIGHT



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